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Date

*Fani Malikouzakis*

Name: Fani Malikouzakis

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Christoph SEIDEL et al.  
Serial No : 09/896,032  
Filed : June 29, 2001  
For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV SEROCONVERSION  
Art Unit : 1648  
Examiner : Donna C. Wortman

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows: